

lished, might easily lead to an inquisitorial tyranny, and it is not surprising if many of the lords and lairds were dubious as to the advisability of subjecting the country to such a Calvinist inquisition. It is difficult to conceive that it would have been welcome to the mass of the people, whose rustic joys it would have nipped with the frost of an obtrusive sanctity. Nor should we forget, in judging Knox's estimate of the Scottish nobility, the patriotic service rendered by these men in taking a firm stand against a *regime* which undoubtedly tended to sacrifice the interests of Scotland to France. A section of the nobility was, too, undoubtedly sincere in its attachment to the reform movement. Men like Lord James and Erskine of Dun, who had borne the brunt of the struggle from the beginning, were not mere opportunists. Lord James was the great politician of the party, and the conduct of politicians will not invariably stand the test of narrow scrutiny from the point of view of the idealist. Even Knox did not always keep a straight course when he took to political intrigue. Lord James managed to "grip" a good deal of gear in his time, and did not lose sight of his worldly interests. But we must beware of swallowing the malicious gossip circulated against him and his associates by the defeated party. To the rabid papists, smarting under defeat, Knox is an unmitigated scoundrel, Lord James a subtle egoist. Partisan writers like Leslie, bishop of Ross, accuse the queen's natural brother of the most sinister purposes in his antagonism to Mary of Guise. She had refused him the earldom of Moray, which her daughter subsequently conferred, and in his resentment he was actively intriguing to secure the throne for himself. Such statements, coming from a bitter enemy, are certainly not convincing. On the other hand, the strong testimony of the English ambassador and others to his sincerity and integrity are open to the objection that they are the panegyrics of interested friends. The tone of Lord James's letters at this period certainly do not tend to confirm Leslie's aspersions. These letters might have been written by a designing hypocrite, but such is not the impression they convey. When, for instance, Mary sent him an angry epistle taxing him with sedition and ingratitude for his conduct to her mother, he replied respectfully, but firmly, that in following* his conscience